Modernisation unci expansion or Gopalpur minor port, Orissa

1536. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased la stale:

(a) whether MMTC proposes to lake up the upgradation and expansion of Gopalpur minor port in Orissa;

(b) whether MMTC has made any agreement with his Ministry to develop that minor part as a major port;

(c) what steps arc being taken to develop that port as a major port: and

(d) II" so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received by this Ministry.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

New Postal Services Policy

1537. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will
the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any new postal services policy to achieve greater customer satisfaction; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The Department of Post has consistent followed the policy of providing postal services in Ihc country comprising efficient service to (he customers across the counter as also expeditious mail processing and delivery. While counter services arc provided Ihrough a steady expansion of ihc network of post offices, improvement in mail processing and delivery is effected through rationalisation of procedures, adoption of suitably speedy transport system, induction of technology and better management.

Continuing this basic policy, new initiatives have now been taken to achieve greater customer satisfaction through more efficient, error-free and responsive counter service Ihrough use of computer based multi-purpose counter machines, better ergonomics and improved work environment. This programme is also aimed at enhancing employee satisfaction by providing a clean and friendly work environment and enabling the department to provide new value-added services to meel the future expectations of the customers. In the area of expeditious mail processing and delivery, the programme of modernisation is aimed at providing exclusive channels for processing and delivery of large volumes of pin-coded first class mail between the National Capilal and other metro cities and Slate Capitals of Ihc country. Such segmented processing of mail is expected lo decongesi the system and allow it lo function smoothly lo the benefitof different types of users of Postal services.

Ihc Department has also initialed schemes lo provide value-added services based on sialellile connectivity. Transmission of Money Orders using satellite and (he introductionof llybridc Mall Service are two such schemes. Twenty-six micro earth stations capable of transmitting and receiving satellite signals have already been scl up in Ihc country and 49 more centres arc largctted lo be completed by the end of Ihc current year.

Availability of Environment Funds

1538. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the
Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
be pleased lo state:

(a) whether it is a fact thai insurance companies arc sitting on the Environment Funds In absence of any guidelines on its implementation;

(h) if so, what is the reaction of Governmentto the press report in Financial Express dated 21.7.95 under the caption "Environment Fund" stagnating in absence of guidelines*;

(c) Ihc details regarding fads on Ihc observations made in the report; and

(d) Ihc action taken so far/proposed lo sort out the Issues to ensure availability of funds for development purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Presently, the General Insurance Corporation and its subsidiaries are maintaining the Environment Relief Fund in separate bank

accounts in short (crm deposits lor 46 days in accordance with the instructions provided by this Ministry, Detailed guidelines are under linalisalion and shall he published in the scheme tor establishing and maintaining Ihe Environment Relief Fund.

(b) and (c)Thc news report has highlighted die following issues;

(i) stagnation of Ks. 2.1 crores of linvironinent Relief Fund with insurance companies in absence of guidelines;

(ii) absence of instructions for investing the fund; and

liii) non-compliance by Public Sector Units.

Regarding issues (i) & (ii) according to the available statistics, so far the contribution forwards EiRF is Rs. 18 crore. The money is being reinvested regularly in short-term deposits and has earned a sum of Rs. 2.11 crores as interest. Detailed modalities to reinvest the fund have been incorporated in Ihe scheme, under preparation, for establishment of FRF.

(iiv) So far, except for one case, none of the Public Sector Units have sought exemption under Ihe Act. A lew Public Sector Units have already taken out an insurance policy. Necessary instructions to the Stale Governments, who have been delegated with powers to give appropriate directions, have been issued to ensure compliance by Public Sector Units.

(d) The use of the Environment Relief Fund is restricted for meeting any claims beyond Ihe liability of the insurer under the Public Liability Insurance Act, and cannot be diverted to development purposes.

Catering/Vending etc. Stalls at Railway Stations

1539. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI; Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the contractors holding Ihe catering/vending, book stalls, miscellaneous Article Stalls and fresh juice stalls in Northern Railway (Station and division-wise);'

(b) Ihe dales of allotment and execution of the agreements in each case as mentioned in part la) above;

(e) the details with names of ihe contractors whose period of agreement expired and nol renewed within the stipulated period in each division of Northern Railway; and

(d) the details thereof?

II Hi MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFFR SHARIEF): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will he laid on Ihe Table of Ihe Sabha.

Fruit Plants on forest land

1540. SI IRI BHUPINDER SINGII MANN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to stale;

(a) whether Government envisage the idea ol growing fruit-plants on the forest land which is nol only helpful in fruit production but also ecu-friendly;

(h) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such forest land would be given on lease, if required'.'

Till'. MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The principal aim of the national Forest Policy I'MH is to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance through afforestation, Accordingly, such suitable fruit trees as would III in with the overall scheme of afforestation may be planted on forest lands. It is nol, however, proposed to lease I'oresi lands for horticultural purposes.

Projects under Implementation In Paradlp Port

1541. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased lo stale:

(a) what are Ihe important Projects under Implementation in Paradip Port (Orissa); and

(b) the details thereof?

TUB MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The